Setting up new power projects in Punjab

3156. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government propose to provide financial and technical expertise to the Punjab Government to set up new power projects to meet the power shortage in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation have mobilized themselves adequately to see that the execution of any viable project under the State Sector is not hampered due to lack of funds. No specific proposal has been received by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) from the Government of Punjab for providing technical assistance to set up new power projects.

Jhakri Hydel Project on Sutlej river in Himachal Pradesh

3157. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 1500 MW Naphtha Jhakri Hydel Project on Sutlej river in Himachal Pradesh is crippled by unexpectedly huge amount of silt coming into its turbines thus forcing its closure for long periods during the peak generating hours;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has led to losses of over Rs. 750 crores since its commissioning in 2003;

(c) if so, whether rapid deglaciation in Sutlej catchments area in China is responsible for the river's unexpected behaviour; and

(d) if so, whether Government have made any investigations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) High silt contents have been experienced during the monsoon season in the last two years in Sutlej river waters. To avoid

any damage to the under water parts of the project, units are required to be stopped when the silt level exceed specified / permissible limits as prescribed in the operation manual of the power station.

(b) The total consolidated loss suffered by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited on account of forced closing of Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Electric Project units on account of high silt in the river Sutlej is approximately Rs. 355 crores since its commissioning in 2003.

It is not established that rapid deglaciation in Satluj catchment area in China is responsible for the unexpected behaviour of the river. However, with the formation of an artificial lake due to massive land slides at Pareechu in Tibet (China) in the year 2004-05 and its bursting in the year 2005-06 silt contents much higher than normal have been experienced in the river waters. Due to the flash flood on 26.6.2005, on account of bursting of the Pareechu artificial dam/lake, erosion was also caused to the upstream banks of the river Satluj which resulted in higher siltation of the river waters for some more time.

(d) A Memorandum of understanding has been signed by the Ministry of Water Resources with the Government of China in 2005 for supply of hydrological information in flood season beginning on-set of South West monsoon 2006.

Ongoing power projects in Andhra Pradesh

3158. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of various ongoing medium and minor power projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for delay, if any, in according approval to the proposals received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last two years for setting up new power projects in Andhra Pradesh, project-wise separately; and

(c) the time likely to be give approval to all the power projects related proposals of Andhra Pradesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) 6 Thermal power projects and 1 hydro power having